Pak Military Activities on Rajasthan and Gujarat Borders

1403. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether increasing Pak-military activities, movement of troops and amassing of armoury have been witnessed in areas across Indo Pak borders in Rajasthan and Gujarat, like Alibunder, Kanjarkot, Chadbet, Badim, all near the Kutch border;

(b) if so, what is the assessment about pak troop movements and activities in these border areas; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Certain low-level military activities and troop movement have been observed across the Indo-Pak border near Kutch area. Monitoring of these activities and necessary precautionary measures continue to be undertaken.

Salary of Re-employed Defence Officers

1404. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retired defence service officers who are reappointed after retirement as Major, Lt. Col., Col., retain their respective ranks but draw the salary of a Captain;

(b) whether the Fifth Pay Commission over-looked the question of refixation of salary of these re-employed service officers, and now they continue to draw their old salaries, which is much below the salary of a present day Captain; and

(c) if so, what steps have been or are being taken to rationalise, revise and up-date the salaries of these re-employed officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The pay of the Defence Service Officers on re-employment after retirement is fixed at the same stage as pay drawn at the time of retirement, without rank pay. In addition to this, the rank pay of the rank in whcih he is re-employed is allowed. On the pay thus arrived, Dearness Allowance is given and from the gross salary the entire pension is deducted which they continue to

draw separately without Dearness Relief. Generally, the Defence Service officers of the rank of Colonel/Lt. Colonel are re-employed in lower ranks of Major/Captain.

The Fifth Central Pay Commission (CPC) had recommended that the retiring officers should be re-employed in the same rank in which they retired. However, Government, in consultation with the Service HQrs has not implemented the recommendation as it will affect the promotional avenues of the Service officers. As on date, re-employed officers are being paid as per the existing method of pay fixation as per para 1 above, under which a Colonel/Lt. Colonel re-employed in the post of a Major/Captain is drawing more pay, allowances and pension than that drawn by a Captain at the maximum of his pay scale.

The matter regarding revision of pay fixation formula for re-employed Defence Service Officers in the light of revision of pay scales of Service Officers on the basis of the recommendations of the Fifth CPC is under active consideration of the Government and is likely to be finalised soon.

Technologies for modernised armaments in Ordnance Factories

1405. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ordnance factories are equipped with digital technologies, lasers, thermal imaging etc. to produce modernised armaments as well as night visions dealer for military operations; and

(b) if not, the action plan for modernisation of ordnance factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Ordnance Factories are equipped to manufacture modernised armaments, laser based instruments and night vision devices. Instruments based on thermal imaging and digital technology are currently not in production. Modernisation of Ordnance Factories for this purpose will follow the induction of such systems by Armed Forces and the acquisition of technology for its manufacture.